

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

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Indian Oilseed Planting Situation

Report Categories:

Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

According to the Agriculture Ministry's progressive planting report, area planted to kharif oilseeds, which includes peanuts, soybean and sunflower, was up 4 percent at 16.5 million hectares mostly due to increase in the area under peanut cultivation.

General Information:**PEANUT PLANTING UP 20 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR**

According to the Agriculture Ministry's progressive planting report for the week ending August 28, 2010, area planted to kharif oilseeds, (includes mostly peanuts, soybean and sunflower) was up 4 percent at 16.5 million hectares. Most of the increase in planted area was due to good monsoon rains in major oilseed growing areas. Reportedly, farmers found sesame, niger and castor seed production more remunerative than last year.

Area planted to soybeans stood at 9.2 million hectares, down 262,000 hectares over last year. Good monsoon rains in Maharashtra prompted farmers to shift soybean acreage to more profitable crops such as pulses, cotton and sugarcane. Similar shifts in acreage have brought down the area sown to soybeans in Rajasthan. However, a late revival of monsoon rains in Madhya Pradesh has marginally raised the area sown to soybeans.

Peanuts were planted across 4.9 million hectares, up 20 percent over last year. Early monsoon rains in Southern India has helped increase peanut acreage; especially in Andhra Pradesh, where the jump in acreage is expected to be more than double compared to last year. Gujarat reported marginal increases over last year.

Area planted to kharif sunflower this year declined to 242,000 hectares from 447,000 hectares last year as farmers in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh opted to bring more area under pulse crops and coarse cereals.